Oxford Journal

Bullfinch trial taught us many lessons
Page 3

Flooding 'may be the new normal'
Page 5

WIN Delivery Driver movie goodies
Page 13

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Thursday, January 16 - Wednesday, January 22, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

LEAKED LETTER SPARKS ANGER

Bus group's fury after councillor 'dismisses' campaign

THE Oxon School Bus Action Group (OSBAG) has reacted angrily to Oxfordshire County Council, after a cabinet member had sent a private letter to other councillors dismissing the campaign.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The letter was sent by Cllr Melinda Tilley, the council cabinet member for children, education and families.

One section read: "Perhaps 'OSBAG' should listen more to what real parents say they will do, rather than to their own rhetoric which seems to be more about their own personal and, perhaps, political agenda.

"'OSBAG' may have hundreds of 'Facebook friends' but the three or four tee-shirt wearing 'usual suspects' who turned up at each of the 10 public meetings suggests that there is rather less behind the façade than has been suggested by the generous media coverage."

The news comes as the second consultation on the council's proposed home to school transport policy ended on Tuesday, as they try to reduce spending on all services by 40 per cent.

And the issue has provoked a furious response from campaigners.

OSBAG co-ordinator Sue Moon said: "This issue affects thousands of families throughout the county who have gone to the trouble of engaging in the process precisely because they are so fearful of the potential outcome of this policy change.

"To see their options dismissed so flippantly by a senior local politician calls into question the legitimacy of the council's approach to public consultations.

Ms Moon continued: "But the most disappointing aspect of this letter is that it clearly highlights just how out of touch such an important cabinet member still is with the strength of feeling across the county.

"This is now about personalities or politics, as our group is made up of people from right across the political spectrum.

"This is quite simply about the future of children's education in Oxfordshire."

Cllr Tilley declined to comment on the letter, after being contacted by the Oxford Journal.

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£330k Mind grant is 'fantastic news'

LOCAL charity Mind Oxfordshire have been given a grant of over £330,000 from the Big Lottery Fund, for a project that will deliver specialist advice to people with mental health problems.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The project has been set up to combat increasing levels of anxiety about recent welfare reforms, and will help people navigate the legislative changes.

It is hoped it will reduce fear among thousands of vulnerable people, caused by changes to benefits and aiming to secure a degree of financial security.

People with multiple needs will be directed to appropriate mainstream services such as drug and alcohol support projects.

It will also provide an outreach service for beneficiaries at more than 20 venues across the county, including mental health team premises and wellbeing centres.

"The grant is fantastic news," said Patrick Taylor, chief executive of Mind Oxfordshire. "We know that mental health problems can damage lives and leave people feeling alone and frightened.

"But it doesn't have to be that way.

"We want to make sure anyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support.

"Thanks to the Big Lottery Fund, we will be able to provide expert benefits advice to support people who are already struggling with a mental health problem.

"The welfare benefits system is changing dramatically, and we need to make sure that people with a mental health problem do not lose out.

"This funding will help people claim what they are entitled to, have support and advocacy through difficult appeals processes, and get expert guidance managing the transition from benefits into work."

Alison Rowe, spokesperson for the Big Lottery Fund, said: "It may be difficult enough for affected people to navigate their way through the welfare financial changes and budget accordingly.

"That's without having additional mental health problems on top.

"This targeted service by Mind Oxfordshire will respond to a real need from people who are worried about the transition, and provide informed advice and vital piece of mind."

Oxford goes all international for 2014 Art Fair

A NEW three-day art extravaganza is coming to Oxford next month, with talented international artists showcasing a mix of their modern and contemporary work.

More than 150 artists from across Europe, Japan, Russia, Argentina and India will present paintings, sculptures, photographs, prints, illustrations and bespoke crafts during the Oxford International Art Fair.

Visitors will be able to meet and speak with the artists, watch them at work and purchase pieces as well as adding their vote to the Oxford International Art Fair Awards.

Joelle Dinnage, from art fair organisers The Global Art Agency, is looking forward to bringing the extravaganza into the city.

She said: "For the past two years, we've held art fairs for home-grown artists in the lovely setting of The Fishes pub at North Hinksey, where we had an amazing response from artists and visitors alike.

"We also had a lot of artists from outside the UK wanting to come to Oxford and get involved.

"Now we're setting the scene for art lovers to come along and enjoy a fantastic free day out, viewing the fine pieces on display and learning the stories behind them from the people who created them."

The fair is running from February 7 to 9, and will be held at Oxford Town Hall.

For more information, go to www.oxfordinternationalartfair.com.

• Oxford's first International Art Fair is held at the Town Hall next month

Price hike for season ticket

SEASON ticket costs for travel in Oxford's SmartZone are set to go up by three per cent as of January 26.

The four-week ticket will increase from £50 to £51.75, while it will go up from £128 to £132.50 for 13 weeks.

Meanwhile, a one-week ticket will go up from £15 to £15.50.

In a joint statement, the SmartZone operators said: "No one likes to pay more but the cost of running buses has risen over the last year along with all other business.

"All three companies, Stagecoach, Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel have absorbed costs as much as possible but now an increase in SmartZone prices is unavoidable."

The last increase in SmartZone fares was a year ago while all three operators currently have no plans to alter the cost of single and return tickets.

SmartZone is a scheme involving Stagecoach, Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel and offers multi-operator ticketing on bus routes operating mainly in the Oxford City area.

Understanding dementia

AN OXFORDSHIRE project has set out its aim of making the county "dementia-friendly".

Led by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), the council's Dementia Community Learning Partnership, aims to ensure people do not have to face the condition alone.

The Oxfordshire Dementia Community Learning Partnership aims to improve public awareness and understanding of dementia.

It provides free training and guidance about how to best support and help people with dementia to continue to be part of their local community.

Emily Lewis from ORCC said: "Too often dementia spells physical and emotional isolation.

"Our vision is for Oxfordshire to become a county where communities are dementia-friendly.

"People in those communities are supportive and responsive to people with dementia."

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Bullfinch trial taught us many important lessons

OXFORDSHIRE County Council's chief executive has pledged that social workers and the police will work "tirelessly" to stop the sexual exploitation of children.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Joanna Simons, along with Thames Valley Police officers and partner organisations, spoke at a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Conference last week.

The event, which was organised by the county council and the Crown Prosecution Service, provided an opportunity to gather as much information as possible from Operation Bullfinch.

The investigation saw seven men convicted of offences including rape, facilitating child prostitution and trafficking towards young women between 2004 and January 2012.

Mohammed Karrar, Assad Hussain, Zeeshan Ahmed, Kamar Jamil, Anjum Dogar, Akhtar Dogar and Bassam Karrar were jailed for a total of 95 years.

Ms Simons said: "Working together with the police on Bullfinch, we have learned that successful prosecutions require a new approach by everyone involved in child protection.

"We need to make sure we see the child as a victim as opposed to a young person making bad choices."

She added: "Previously prosecutions have relied on victims being willing and able to give evidence, and prosecutors and others believing their evidence.

"This is a problem if vulnerable young victims do not report issues to the police or do give initial evidence but then decide that they are unable to proceed or give evidence that may be inconsistent.

"That is why trust is so important.

"Social workers working with police can build that trust with young people which was vital to the success of Bullfinch.

"Our commitment is that we never give up on a child, and will work tirelessly to stop the sexual exploitation of children and if possible enable a prosecution of the abusers."

• Joanna Simons

• Chief Constable Sara Thornton

Around 160 people from across the country attended the conference at the Kassam Stadium.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton said Thames Valley Police has learned "a great many important lessons" from Operation Bullfinch.

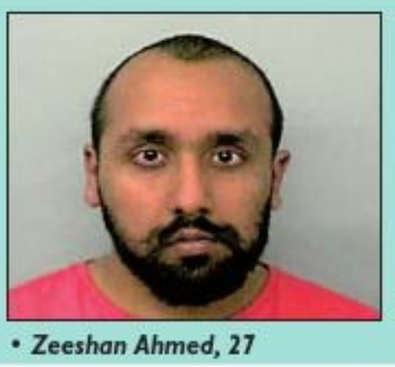
"Thames Valley Police and other local partners have learned a great many important lessons about how to tackle child sexual exploitation and the conference gave us an opportunity to share that learning with colleagues from all over the country," she said.

"It was really well attended and the feedback has been really positive."

Alison Levitt QC, principal legal advisor to the Director of Public Prosecutions, added: "I am convinced that with the police and Crown Prosecution Service working together at an early stage, we can continue to build strong cases to put before the courts."

• Mohammed Karrar, 38

• Assad Hussain, 32



• Zeeshan Ahmed, 27

• Anjum Dogar, 31

• Kamar Jamil, 27

• Akhtar Dogar, 32

• Bassam Karrar, 34

• Bullfinch offenders

Grants are a 'vital way of providing support'

OVER 150 cancer patients in Oxfordshire were given a Macmillan grant in 2013, to help them with costs relating to their treatment.

Patients in Oxfordshire received almost £42,000 to help with clothing, bedding, heating bills and transport, as well as household items such as washing machines.

Celia Gale, project manager at the Macmillan Oxford Benefits Service, said: "Each week I see people with cancer who just do not know how they are going to pay the next fuel bill or their costs for getting to and from hospital for treatment.

"Macmillan grants are a vital way of providing some support to these people, so that they can concentrate on their health rather than worrying about finances."

Dr Fran Woodard, Macmillan Cancer Support Director for England, said: "Our latest grants figures are evidence of the financial isolation that can seriously impact people living with cancer.

"To feel unable to buy the clothes you need to keep warm, for example, is an unacceptable reality for thousands of vulnerable cancer patients at a time when, on average, their income halved and their outgoings rocket.

"Macmillan believes no-one should face cancer alone and we urge any cancer patients who are struggling financially to contact our helpline to find what support is available to them."

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Flooding 'might be the new normal'

• *The recent floods (Pictures by Jacob Barrett)*

OXFORDSHIRE County Council have announced a multi-agency flooding summit will take place in March, after floods severely affected many parts of Oxford and the county in recent weeks.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The council want to bring together relevant organisations to discuss flooding in Oxfordshire, and work to reduce the risk to homes, businesses and transport links.

It is scheduled to take place on March 21, and comes after flooding has hit the county four times in the past decade.

Cllr Rodney Rose, cabinet member with responsibility for flood risk management, said: "We have now had significant floods two years running, so we may have to face up to flooding as the 'new normal' in Oxfordshire.

"That is why I want to make sure that all the relevant organisations come together as soon as possible to learn lessons from these floods.

"The aim of the summit is to bring together every organisation with a role in reducing the risk of flooding, and agree a way forward.

"We all know that public money for flood defences is limited, so it is very important that we put on a united front in Oxfordshire to get a share of whatever national investment is available."

Water levels in Oxford have receded since their peak at the weekend, which saw major routes into the city including Botley Road and Abingdon Road closed because of flooding.

Both have now reopened, but several flood alerts remain active in the area, including on the River Cherwell from Lower Heyford to Oxford.

Others in Oxfordshire include Ginge Brook in Steventon and Sutton Courtenay, the River Evenlode from Moreton in Marsh to Cassington, the River Glyme at Wootton and Woodstock, and the River Thames at Oxford, Abingdon and Henley.

The Environment Agency is advising communities in the region to remain aware of the potential for further flooding, stating it will be several days before river levels are back to normal.

Some temporary flood defences remain in place in Oxford, with more rain forecast in the coming days.

For updates on flood alerts, go to www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

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News Bites

Mums approve!

NATIONAL parenting website Netmums has named Oxford's Pegasus Theatre as one of the best on offer in the South East, awarding the venue with a gold listing on their site.

Pegasus has been made a 'mums choice', and the awards were set up to acknowledge the job that local theatres do, particularly with the rapid expansion of children's entertainment.

Gill Jaggers, head of marketing at Pegasus, said: "We're delighted to be recognised in this way and thank Netmums for the fantastic support."

Start seeing sense

DEAFBLIND charity Sense is offering athletes from Oxford the opportunity to run this year's London Marathon and raise money for a worthy cause.

Tara Hamdi, from Sense, said: "Whether you're a seasoned runner or a novice, we'll support you every step of the way, from training and fundraising to the big day itself."

Snatch theft

A WOMAN was the victim of a theft in Oxford on Saturday, when her handbag containing a wallet, sunglasses and a mobile phone was stolen.

The incident took place between 8.45pm and 9pm on Cavendish Drive. The offender was a black man aged around 30, clean shaven and skinny. PC Paul Jones said: "Can anyone who was in the area and remembers anyone matching the description of the offender please contact police on 101."

Oxford - get ready to move your feet!

• Joe Lott stars in Alpha on March 5

• Artists from the Candoco Dance Company perform on March 10

THE annual Dancin' Oxford festival is set to return next month, with a number of free shows featuring expert dancers with various styles including hip-hop, contemporary and swing.

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

This will be the eighth time that Dancin' Oxford has been staged in the city since beginning in 2007, and sees dozens of performances taking place between February 28 and March 10.

It aims to increase participation in dance work in the city, as well as initiate and fundraise for dance-based projects.

The festival is run in partnership with Pegasus Theatre, Oxford Playhouse, Oxford Castle and Oxford City Council, to help with development of professional dance artists and companies.

The Festival Launch takes place in the city centre on March 1 with some of Oxford's best dancers performing in Bonn Square and Broad Street.

New for 2014 is The Night Ball, which sees 10 professional dancers visit Oxford Town Hall in a cabaret setting, with audience members given the chance to dance with them.

Baby Boogie returns for another year, as well as Fandango on March 7 for children aged five and under, and a family dance session two days later for all age groups.

Other attractions include Hofesh Schecter's Everyday Moments, Joe Lott's Alpha and a final show featuring a collaboration between Body Politic, Candoco Dance Company, Parasol and other guests.

For the full programme and information about show times and venues, go to www.dancinoxford.co.uk.

Blackbird Leys fraudster jailed after £28,000 benefit claims

A 47-year-old woman from Blackbird Leys has been jailed for fraudulently claiming over £28,000 in benefits.

Lissiea Davidson has been sentenced to 18 weeks imprisonment for failing to declare that she was living with her partner and that she was hosting foreign students.

She pleaded guilty to dishonestly obtaining Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance at Oxford Magistrates Court.

Miss Davidson, of Haldane Road, was charged with dishonestly making false statements to Oxford City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

She was also charged with dishonestly failing to declare a change of circumstances relating to her claims for benefit with Oxford City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions between April 2009 and December 2012.

In total she stole £29,165.93 and will have to pay back the overpaid benefit to both Oxford City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

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News Bites

Religion lectures

FORMER Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams is visiting Oxford University later this month, to deliver two lectures on religious beliefs.

Dr Williams comes to Oxford in his capacity as Humanitas Visiting Professor in Interfaith Studies, and will also be taking part in an 'in conversation' event with Jon Snow.

His first lecture takes place on January 24, while a second will be on January 29. For more details, go to www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/humanitas.

Headington fire

FIRE crews were faced with smoke pouring out of a Headington property last Thursday, following a house fire at the address in Peppercorn Avenue.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus managed to extinguish the fire using hose reels to prevent it from spreading.

No-one was injured.

Crash injury

ONE person was injured following a two-car crash in Oxford on Friday morning, which took place on the northern ring road at around 7am.

The road was closed while emergency services made the scene safe and treated the injured man, and was reopened soon after.

Station manager Simon Belcher said: "We'd like to remind people to take care on the roads, especially with the weather being so wet and cold."

The king of the jungle - but just for how long?

AN international team including two experts from the University of Oxford have concluded that lions in West Africa are facing extinction, with only an estimated 250 remaining.

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The report has been published in the journal PLOS One, co-authored by Oxford's Professor David Macdonald and Dr Lauren Coad.

It reveals that lions in West Africa, specifically between Senegal and Nigeria, are now restricted to four isolated populations, only one of which contains more than 50 lions.

Professor Macdonald said: "Conservationists have suspected that the plight of West African lions was worrying.

"Our work reveals this was wrong – it's catastrophic.

"These results demonstrate that the time for hopeful handwringing has passed, and intervention on a scale requiring major international agencies is essential."

Dr Coad added: "Our findings suggest that many of the West African protected areas still supporting lion populations are chronically underfunded and understaffed.

"Many protected areas evaluated for this study did not have the capacity to undertake anti-poaching patrols.

"As a result, lion populations within their boundaries are under threat from poachers, who target both lions and their prey."

The report comes as a result of a six-year study, covering 11 countries where lions were presumed to exist over the last 20 years.

It was discovered that West African lions now only survive in Senegal and Nigeria, and one population on the borders of Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso.

They are genetically different from the more well-known lions of game parks in East and Southern Africa, and are closely related to the extinct Barbary Lions formerly of North Africa.

Fewer than 35,000 lions remain in Africa today, covering about 25 per cent of their historical range.

In West Africa, the lion survives in an area only one per cent the size of its original range, in an area half the size of New York State.

Students bowled over by England cricket hero

• *Former England cricketer Alec Stewart meets students at The Oxford Academy*

STUDENTS from The Oxford Academy were treated to a visit from former England cricket captain Alec Stewart last week, as he dropped in on a practice session.

The popular batsmen joined year nine pupils for a quick innings.

He then shared his experience of sport and teamwork at the highest level.

While in Oxford, Alec also met with local business leaders at Clydesdale Bank on West Way, and gave a frank assessment on England's performance in the recent Ashes series.

Emma Reynolds, head of physical education at the academy, said: "We are honoured to have been involved in this special relationship between sport, education and business.

"Our students were inspired by Alec's knowledge of his sport and passion for encouraging others to participate."

Mark Laughlan of Clydesdale Bank added: "Alec's visited certainly struck a chord with students and the local business community alike.

"His career is a testament to his commitment to practice, dedication and teamwork."

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Oxford Journal

Reader Travel

Royal Collection 2014

By RAIL from Oxford

Clarence House
& The Royal Mews

Friday departures, 1, 8, 15 & 29 August 2014

Book with Omega Short Breaks for a close-up peek at Charles and Camilla's elegantly appointed London residence, designed by John Nash, and a look at the Landaus and Broughams of the Royal Coaches, including the Irish State Coach and the 4 tonne Gold State Coach, plus the livery and horses of the Royal Mews.

- 2 nights stay at a choice of 4 star London hotels with full English breakfast
- Admission to Clarence House and the Royal Mews on Saturday
- Free time in London
- Return standard class rail travel to London from Oxford

3 days by **Rail**, from **£189.95pp**

A Royal Weekend

Saturday departures, August - September 2014

Book now for this superb value Royal triple visiting Buckingham Palace, The Queen's Gallery and The Royal Mews, all in a weekend. With all entry tickets included, plus rail travel, choice of central London 4 star hotels and a full English breakfast, this is a blue-blooded tour that won't put you in the red!

- Overnight stay at a choice of **4 star central London hotels with full English breakfast**
- Admission to the Royal Mews on Sunday
- Admission to Buckingham Palace on Sunday
- Admission to The Queen's Gallery
- Free time in London on Saturday
- Return standard class rail travel to London from Oxford

2 days by **RAIL** from **£159.95pp**

Buckingham Palace
& Free time in London

Saturday departures, August - September 2014

Join us for a weekend whirl round the wonders of London's top postcode: SW1A 1AA, with exhibitions, costumes, armour, Faberge boxes and Old Masters galore. With rail travel, choice of 4 star hotel, full English breakfast and a free day in London, this break is a royal flush of diamonds at low club rates!

- Overnight stay at a choice of 4 star central London hotels with full English breakfast
- Admission to Buckingham Palace on Sunday morning with coach transfer
- Free time in London
- Return standard class rail travel to London from Oxford

2 days by **Rail**, from **£139.95pp**

For more information or to book, please call:
01539 751251 quote OXJ
or visit: **www.oxfordjournal.reader.travel**

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA 5914. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

Entertainment

Local entertainment, ranging from professional to amateur acts

If you would like your event considered for publication, please contact **Adam Flinn** at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Quartet's new direction

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

CONTEMPORARY jazz group Kairos 4tet come to Oxford's North Wall Theatre on Wednesday, following the release of their third album 'Everything We Hold'.

Fronted by saxophonist and composer Adam Waldmann, Kairos 4tet also features bassist Jasper Høiby, drummer Jon Scott and pianist Ivo Neame.

They collaborated with actor and lyricist Rupert Friend for the latest album, a partnership that may continue into future works.

"Half of the album is vocal songs written in collaboration with Rupert, who I actually went to school with here in Oxford," said Adam.

"The response to it has been really great and I think people have taken well to the intention of this new direction, and the feedback we've had has been really warm. I'm very happy about it.

"I enjoyed collaborating with Rupert, and it seemed to work so naturally that I really wanted to explore as much as possible on this new album.

• Adam Waldmann (second from right) and Kairos 4tet perform at the North Wall Theatre on Wednesday

"We're already writing some new songs together at the moment. It's been very challenging but a lot of fun as well."

Adam has grown up with music for most of his life, and came to Oxford to study at Cherwell College as a teenager.

He added: "I've got two older brothers who are both musicians, so it was really trying to catch up and play music with them.

"As 16 and 17-year-olds in Oxford, we used to have a regular gig every week, and it encouraged us to learn new material and get certain things together at an early age.

"There's a good music scene in Oxford which is really encouraging. There's a real history of good rock bands, like Radiohead and now with the Foals, so it's a good time to be here and definitely helps."

The show begins at 8pm, and tickets cost £13. For more information, call 01865 319450 or go to www.thenorthwall.com.

Ploughing On

COMEDIANS Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis are "Ploughing on Regardless', their new show coming to the Oxford Playhouse this evening.

The duo have been described as the kings of satirical comedy in the past, and discuss a range of topics relating to current affairs in this latest performance.

It starts at 8pm, and costs £20 for tickets.

More details can be found at www.oxfordplayhouse.com, or by calling the box office on 01865 305305.

Rob Deering

THE Cotswold Comedy Club returns to action this evening at the Chipping Norton Theatre, as Rob Deering returns with his latest show.

Rob is known for his razor-sharp wit and cheesy singing voice, and has established himself as a popular and familiar act on the UK circuit.

All tickets cost £12 for a 7.45pm start. For more details, call 01608 642350 or go to www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

Snow White

THE story of Snow White and the Fairy Tale Creatures, and their struggles against the evil Queen Cruella, is staged at Henley's Kenton Theatre from tonight.

Cruella orders her guards to banish all the fairytale creatures from her kingdom, but an ogre refuses to go because he has a secret crush on Snow White.

Tickets cost £13, and the show is running until Saturday. A full list of show times can be found at www.kentontheatre.co.uk, or by calling 01491 575698.

Evita in town

RENOWNED musical Evita comes to the Oxford New Theatre from Wednesday, featuring iconic lyrics and music from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Classic songs include 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina', 'On This Night of a Thousand Stars' and 'Oh What a Circus', telling the story of the life of Eva Peron and her rise to sainthood.

It is being staged until January 25, and tickets start from £12.90. For show times and booking details, call 0844 871 3020 or go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk.

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Grisly tales, great fun!

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

FAMILY theatre production Grisly Tales from Tumblewater is being performed at Oxford's Burton Taylor Studio on Saturday, with an entire ensemble of characters being played by just one person.

The story follows Daniel Dorey, who travels to the miserable and unwelcoming city of Tumblewater in search of his long lost sister.

While he is there, he encounters twisted landowner Caspian Pyre, and Daniel meets and hears many of the residents' stories in his journey to bring down the resented Caspian.

Edward Jaspers is the actor who performs over a dozen characters in the show, something he has never done on stage before.

He said: "It should be really great fun because there's no downtime at all, you walk on stage and the next thing you know the play's finished!

"You don't even have time to think what the next character is because you're suddenly them, so it's great fun, it's a good workout doing that for an hour."

Edward also spoke of a chance encounter with the author of Grisly Tales from Tumblewater Bruno Vincent in London that led to the play taking place.

"I was sent the book by a literary agent, and I just fell in love with it, it's such a fun story with a great character.

"Then I happened to bump into the author in a bar. He said to me: 'have you read any good books lately?', and one of the few books I said to him was this one, and I had no idea who he was.

"He lived in London at the time and we got on very well, and he gave me permission to turn his book into a play, and it all went from there.

"I fell in love with this book and then it really was a happy coincidence meeting the author like that."

Saturday's show starts at 2pm, and tickets cost £7.50. Go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com or call 01865 305305 to book.

• *Edward Jaspers plays every role in Grisly Tales from Tumblewater*

Twelfth Night

SHAKESPEARE'S Twelfth Night, one of the Bard's most-loved comedies, is staged at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday.

The fast-paced production sees a dynamic narrative coupled with bursts of music, as is follows Orsino's relentless pursuit of Olivia and Malvolio's transformation.

A full list of show times and ticket prices can be found at www.oxfordplayhouse.com, or by phoning 01865 305305.

Bookends

MUSICAL duo Bookends are at the Thame Players Theatre on Sunday with Simon and Garfunkel Through the Years, telling the story of the iconic musicians.

The show is a mix of multimedia, story telling and live performance, and is all about celebrating the music and career of Simon and Garfunkel.

Tickets cost £12, and begins at 7.45pm. Go to www.thame-players.co.uk or phone 01844 217228 to book.

James Arthur

FORMER X Factor winner James Arthur brings his first headline tour to Oxford's New Theatre, which takes place on Sunday evening.

James' Brit Award nominated single 'Impossible' is the biggest-selling X Factor single since the competition began, and he worked with renowned producers Salaam Remi, Mojam and TMS on his debut album.

The show starts at 7pm, and tickets cost £32.40. To book, go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or call 0844 871 3020.

Nathan's stars

NATHAN Jones' All Stars Band perform at the Chipping Norton Theatre on Saturday, covering the music of Frank Sinatra, Robbie Williams and Michael Bublé among others.

The Swindon-based 20-piece band have recently completed an extensive theatre tour and the Marlborough International Jazz Festival, entertaining audiences nationwide with their extensive musical repetoire.

Tickets for Saturday's show cost £14, and starts at 7.45pm. For further details, call 01608 642350 or go to www.chipping-nortontheatre.co.uk.

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SUN 10.00 - 15.00

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18 Jan - 22 Feb 2014, 10am - 5:30pm
Sarah Wiseman Gallery
REBECCA MCLYNN AND RICHARD FOX
"On show at Sarah Wiseman Gallery is acclaimed landscape painter Rebecca McLynn, whose large, atmospheric paintings take their inspiration from the dramatic landscapes of northern Europe; the Western Highlands and Islands, Ireland's Atlantic coast, as well as California's Big Sur. She begins each painting with a landscape element drawn from her location sketches, before pouring and veiling paint, allowing the viewer to contemplate their own reminisces of landscapes visited.
Richard Fox's stunning new blue alabaster sculptures are an exciting development in his work. Using the materials veins and fault-lines, Richard has created a body of work that is an exploration of surface, contrasted with rough textured edges, and semi-translucent ripples through the stone.
01865 515 123

21 Jan - 25 Jan 2014
Oxford Playhouse
TWELFTH NIGHT
Tickets: £11 to £26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

22 Jan - 23 Jan 2014
Cornerstone, Didcot
PAM AYRES
01235 515 144. www.cornerstone-arts.org

22 Jan 2014, 8:30pm
The Lamb Inn, Mill Street, Wantage
DAVE MOORWOOD'S RASCALS OF RHYTHM
with guest vocalist Kim Osmond. No admission charge - Raffle to defray guest expenses.

23 Jan 2014, 8pm - 9:30pm
The North Wall, Oxford
366 DAYS OF KINDNESS
Part storytelling, part stand-up, part live documentary, featuring a dinner party with surprise guests including the Dalai Lama, Liam Neeson and Princess Diana, this show attempts to answer the question: is it possible to change the world just by being kind?
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 Jan 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"20.45 Gemma Moss

21.30 Barry & The Beachcombers

22.15 Molotiv Sexbomb

£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/250112
www.gappytooth.com

25 Jan 2014
Royal Oak Pub, Woodstock Road, Oxford
PLAYHOUSE PLAYS OUT: BURNS NIGHT
Packed with poems and music, this promises to be a joyous celebration of one of Scotland's great poets. A traditional two-course haggis lunch or dinner is also included in the ticket price.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

25 Jan 2014, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
NOBODY RIDES THE UNICORN
The greedy King and cunning Doctor trick a young girl into capturing the Unicorn. Zoe must set the Unicorn free... But will she be putting herself in danger? Puppets, original live music and moments of unexpected magic, blend together to tell this tale, based on Adrian Mitchell's modern classic.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

27 Jan - 1 Feb 2014
Oxford Playhouse
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG
Tickets: £11 to £26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

29 Jan 2014, 7:30pm
St Margaret's Church, Oxford
MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
A story concert from the acclaimed band Casa Margarita: tales and music from Seville. Classical and folk music by De Falla, Granados, Rodrigo Lorca and others. In St. Margaret's Church. Tickets £12.50/£10.50 from http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/
http://www.casa-margarita.co.uk/

31 Jan 2014, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
BERNARD D'ASCOLI (PIANO)
Bernard d'Ascoli offers a delightful programme of piano works.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

31 Jan 2014, 5pm
Oxford Playhouse
ALAN AYCKBOURN
Tickets: £9 discounts £7
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

1 Feb 2014, 7:29pm - 11pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
MASH MARATHON
The annual M@SH Marathon returns, bringing its unique brand of innovative music-making to the JdP.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

1 Feb 2014, 9am - 11am
Abingdon Baptist Church Hall
JUMBLE SALE AND CAKE STALL
Jumble, clothes, books, DVD's, toys, games, puzzles, bric-a-brac. home made cakes. In aid of the 30th Abingdon Scout Group funds. Ock Street, Abingdon.
01235 527828

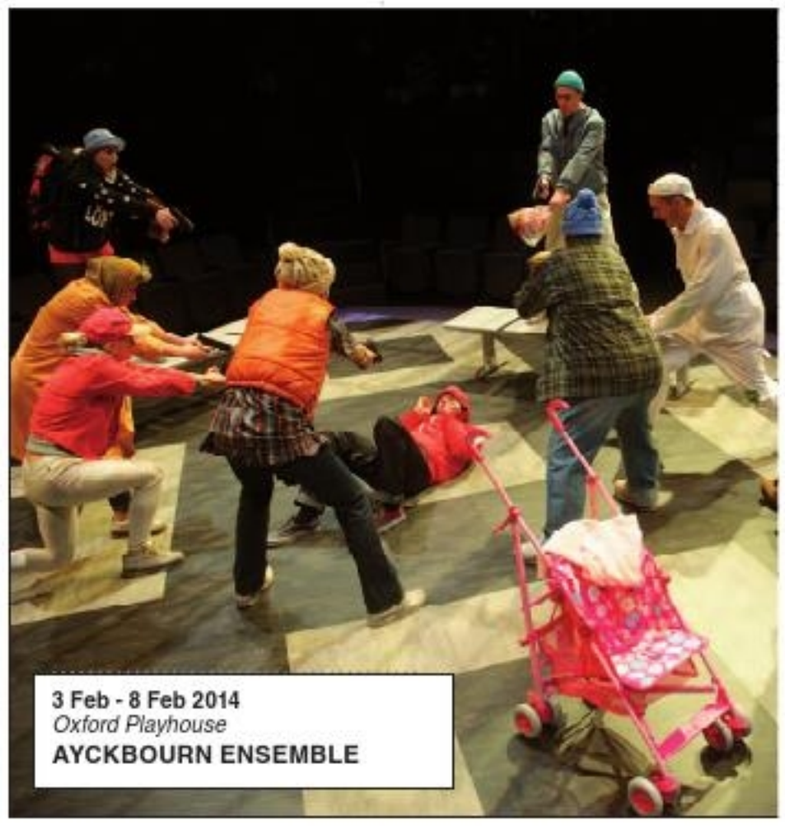
2 Feb 2014, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - JEAN MARTYN
£7 concessions £6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

3 Feb - 8 Feb 2014
Oxford Playhouse
AYCKBOURN ENSEMBLE
Three world premieres (including his latest play Arrivals & Departures) and a major new revival. This promises to be a joyous celebration of Ayckbourn's talent and range.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

6 Feb 2014, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BLINK
This is the tale of Jonah and Sophie. It's a love story. A dysfunctional love story, but a love story all the same.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

7 Feb - 9 Feb 2014, 11am - 5pm
Oxford Town Hall
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR
"The Oxford International Art Fair 7-9 February 2014, at the Oxford Town Hall.With over 150 exhibitors from all over the world, that are specially coming over to Oxford for this wonderful 3-day Art Fair.
Giving Art Collectors and Art Enthusiast a once in a lifetime opportunity to buy directly from the artist that has travelled all the way to Oxford, making it a unique experience for both visitors and exhibitor, at the beautiful Oxford Town Hall, a jewel at the heart of the historic city of Oxford.
You can look forward to a varied and colourful art fair. The selection is based on photographs and illustrations, paintings, to sculptures. All artworks are available for purchase at an affordable price.
www.oxfordinternationalartfair.com

8 Feb 2014, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
CREDIBLE LIKEABLE SUPERSTAR ROLE MODEL
In an audacious, provocative protest against flagrant global attempts to sexualise and commodify childhood for profit, award-winning artist Bryony Kimmings and her niece Taylor, nine, decided to play the global tween machine at its own game by inventing dinosaur-loving, bike riding, tuna pasta-eating, alternative pop star Catherine Bennett.
Tickets: £13, £11 concessions
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450



3 Feb - 8 Feb 2014
Oxford Playhouse
AYCKBOURN ENSEMBLE

Competitions

To enter this competition

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to **competitions@oxfordjournal.co.uk**

Or on a postcard to Competitions, Oxford Journal, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN Delivery Driver movie goodies!

DELIVERY driver David Wozniak (Vince Vaughn) has a life no one would envy: in debt to the mob; a job that's going nowhere and a pregnant girlfriend (Cobie Smulders) who believes their child will be better off without him, then he finds out he's the father of 533 children through sperm donations he made 20 years earlier.

Just when things couldn't look any worse David is hit with a lawsuit from 142 of his offspring who demand to know the identity of their biological father.

As David struggles to decide whether or not he should reveal his true identity, with the help of his friend, full time Dad and part time lawyer, Brett (Chris Pratt) he embarks on a journey that leads him to discover not only his true self but the father he could become.

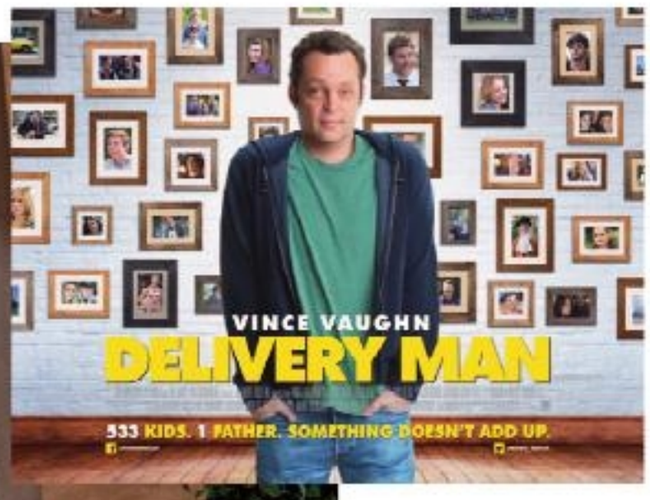
Written and directed by Ken Scott and based on his acclaimed film STARBUCK. A heartwarming comedy for all the family....no matter what the size.

To win one of 3 Delivery Driver goodie packs all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: WHICH LONG RUNNING TV COMEDY SHOW STARS COBIE SMULDERS?

Closing date:

Friday, January 24



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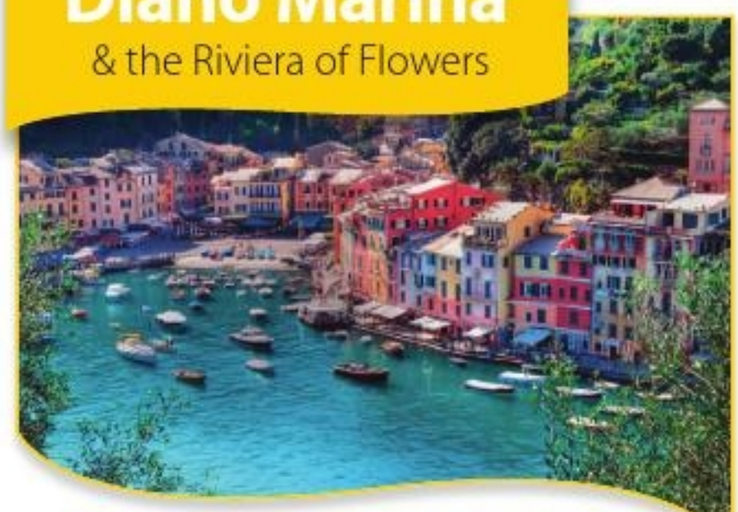
Diano Marina
& the Riviera of Flowers



Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name. . .savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Arc en Ciel, Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
  An upgrade to the 4 star Hotel Metropol, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£869pp**

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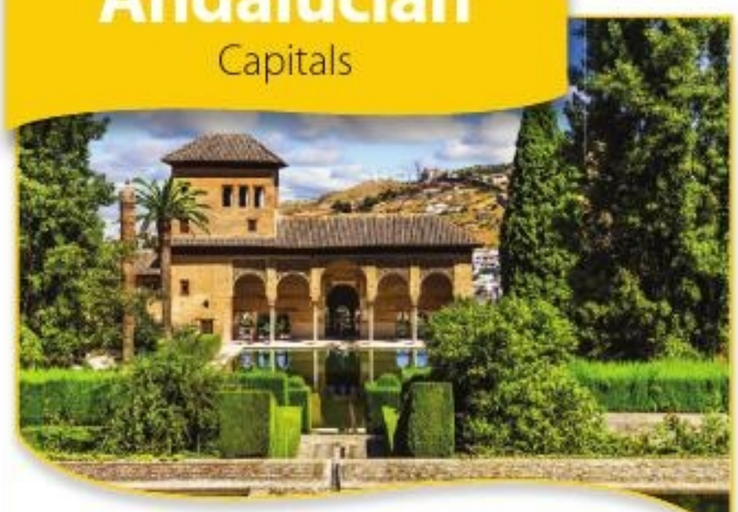
Andalucian
Capitals



Thursday departures, 12 June and 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga††††
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

Includes Escorted Excursions

7 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

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Malta & Gozo
The idyllic islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

8 days by **AIR**, from **£739pp**

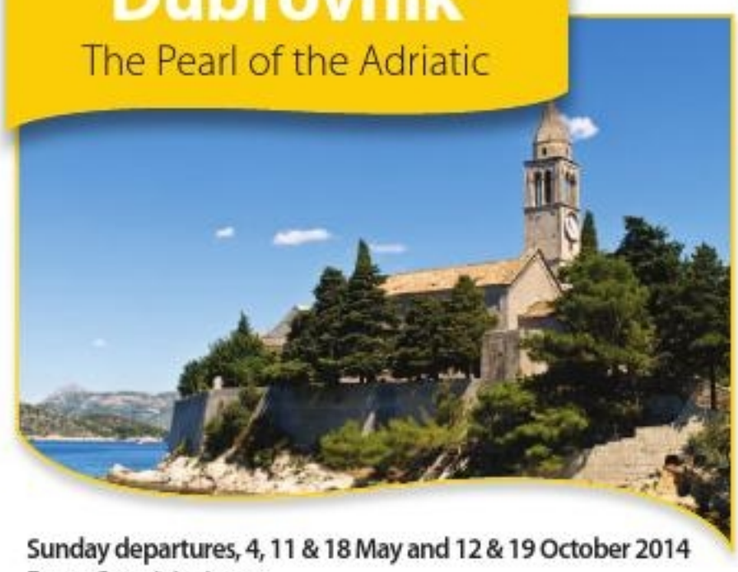
Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Park Hotel**, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes Escorted Excursions

†We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30/12/13 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14.

Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 & 19 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

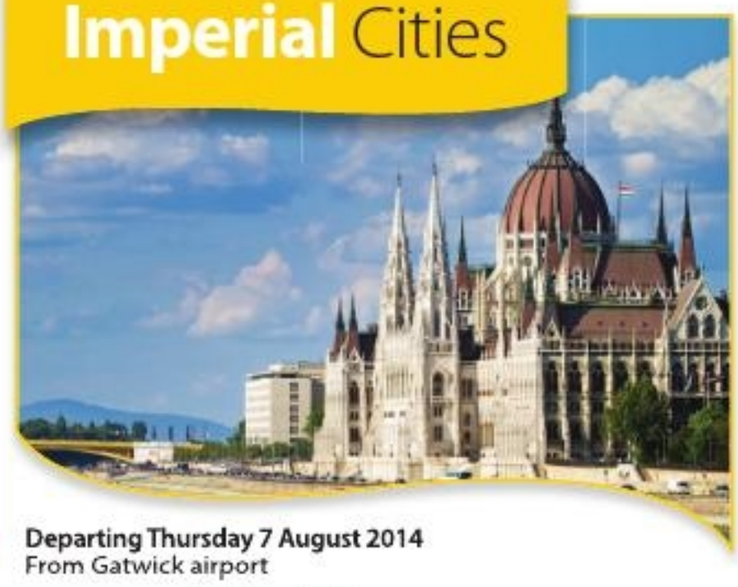
Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†††††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Grand Hotel Park**, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

†††††We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30/12/13 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 18/5/14.

Imperial Cities



Departing Thursday 7 August 2014
From Gatwick airport

- Return flights from Gatwick airport†††††; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
- Return airport-hotel-airport transfer
- Coach transfer from Prague to Vienna, and transfer by train from Vienna to Budapest
- 3 nights' stay at the 4 star Hotel Century Old Town, Prague with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

Includes Escorted Excursions

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†††††We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 30/12/13.

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Winter Sun

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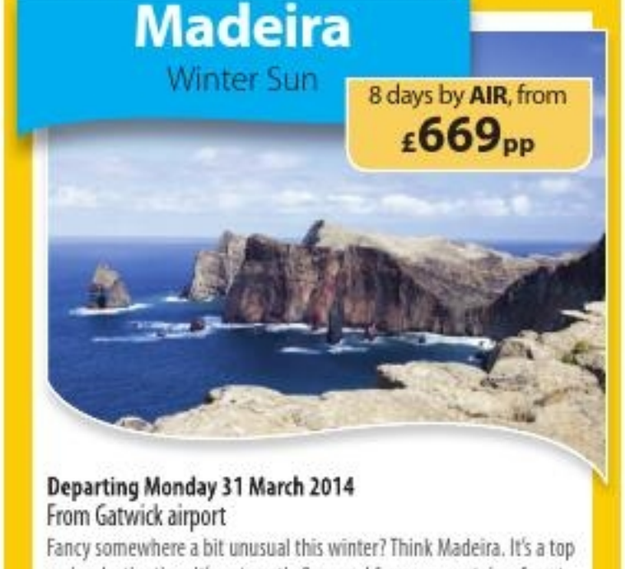

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Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

4					8	2		5
	3		2	1		4		
	7	6	3					9
				9	6	1	5	4
		8				7		
9	1	4	5	3				
3					5	9	6	
		7		6	2		8	
1		9	7					2

6	4							7
				6	5		8	
9	1				7			3
	2				4			
	9	7				2	1	
			7				3	
2			4				6	1
	5		6	7				
7							5	2

			2		8			1
4		5				7		
	1	3						
	6			9				
7			3		1			8
				6			9	
						5	6	
		8				3		4
1			9		5			

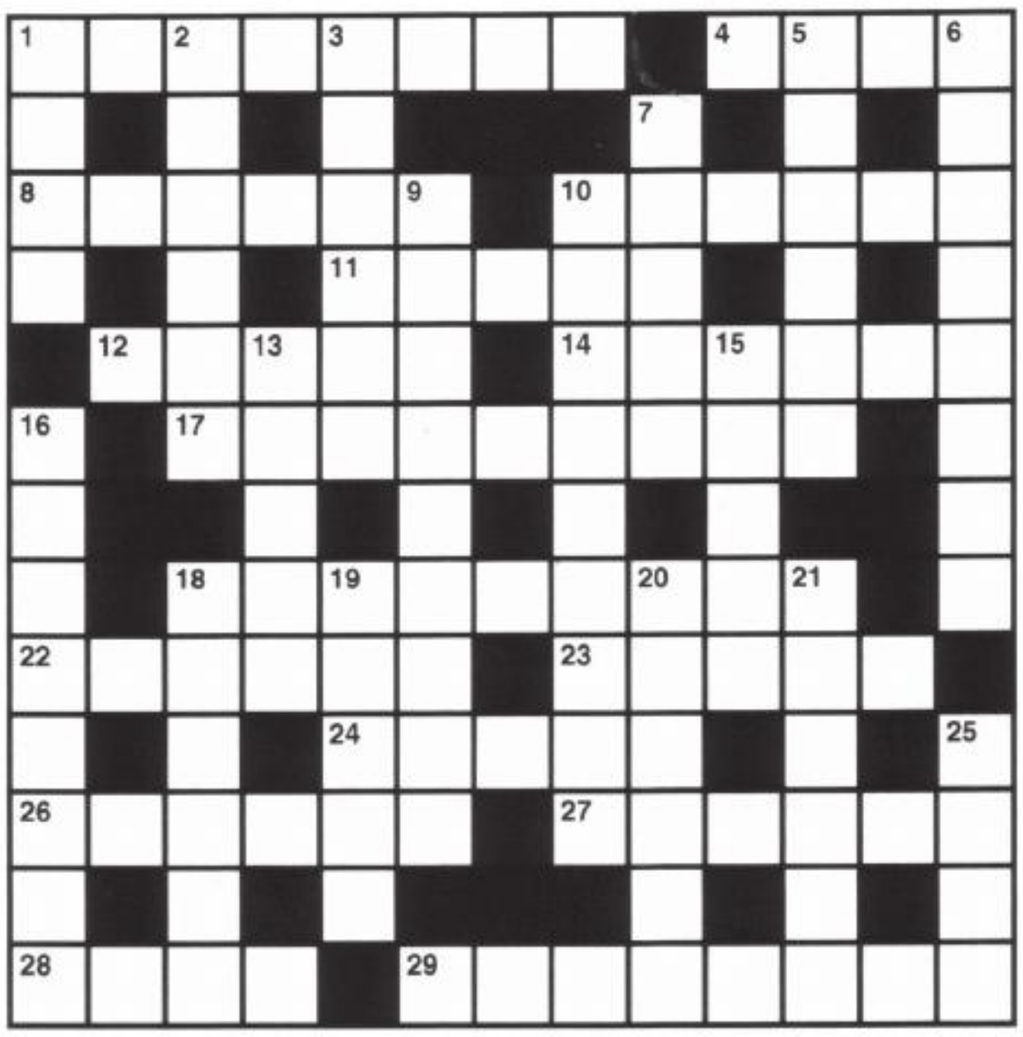
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
1 Offshoots (8)
4 Rowing team (4)
8 Dirty (6)
10 Musical instruments (6)
11 Award (5)
12 An animal (5)
14 Express regret (6)
17 Schemers (9)
18 Small fishes (9)
22 Pamper (6)
23 Cancer (5)
24 Transactions (5)
26 Was afraid (6)
27 Proper (6)
28 Mislaid (4)
29 Was of importance (8)

Quick Clues Down
1 Sculpture (4)
2 In a foreign country (6)
3 Peals (6)
5 Depends (6)
6 Laundry basins (8)
7 Confusion (5)
9 Pleased (9)
10 Festivities (9)
13 Intends (5)
15 Arrange, as feathers (5)
16 Imaginative (8)
18 Inhabitants of a continent (6)
19 Yields (5)
20 Bug (6)
21 A season (6)
25 Stained (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
1 Beaten, but hurried round the snare (8)
4 The ones, for example, given to punters (4)
8 Rules to resign from? (6)
10 Emphatic type (6)
11 Find him in the ice without one sound (5)
12 That is after the general spirit (5)
14 Capital fever follows the pair (6)
17 Flirtation for every one in the dance (9)
18 Everything I've turned on and consumed will make it easier to bear (9)
22 Sounds like intelligence or one who exercises judgment (6)
23 But the occasion for the first woman was the Old Testament (5)
24 Never the writer to make a world tour (5)
26 Act employed getting soaked (6)
27 Emotional shock due to rum at a rumpus (6)
28 The rush that can make men's fortunes (4)
29 Peerless ones at rest (8)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 Look right in it's full of life (4)
2 Elevated when extolled without a head (6)
3 Write a hundred and fortynine with it (6)
5 The flood that traditionally comes after me in France (6)
6 In this way the range of knowledge of the editor dwindled (8)
7 Hard back (5)
9 Protected what she nearly altered (9)
10 Restless because I'm sick (9)
13 Hammers home the finger guards (5)
15 Shrewd angle (5)
16 Guardian to look at the animal? (8)
18 Book for the garden? (6)
19 Look at the minister coming back as a suitor (5)
20 Opposed to a piece of poetry (6)
21 Provide with the right to last (6)
25 The crowd at the service (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

7	2	8	6	3	4	1	9	5
9	3	1	8	5	2	7	6	4
6	5	4	7	9	1	3	2	8
2	7	6	3	8	5	9	4	1
8	4	9	1	2	6	5	3	7
5	1	3	9	4	7	6	8	2
3	6	7	2	1	8	4	5	9
4	9	2	5	7	3	8	1	6
1	8	5	4	6	9	2	7	3

5	4	2	1	9	6	3	7	8
6	3	7	5	8	4	1	2	9
8	9	1	2	3	7	6	4	5
9	8	4	7	5	3	2	1	6
1	6	3	9	4	2	8	5	7
2	7	5	8	6	1	9	3	4
7	1	8	4	2	9	5	6	3
3	2	9	6	7	5	4	8	1
4	5	6	3	1	8	7	9	2

2	1	7	6	4	9	5	3	8
5	4	6	3	1	8	7	2	9
8	9	3	2	5	7	1	6	4
7	3	8	1	6	4	2	9	5
4	2	9	7	8	5	3	1	6
1	6	5	9	3	2	4	8	7
6	7	1	5	9	3	8	4	2
9	5	4	8	2	1	6	7	3
3	8	2	4	7	6	9	5	1

Quick Crossword
Across: 4 Shrimp 8 Temples 9 Locate 10 Ferry boat 11 Mess 13 Stops 14 Riposte 16 Overeat 18 Cargo 19 Felt 21 Essential 22 Endive 23 Started 24 Siding
Down: 1 Deceptive 2 Spare part 3 Herbs 5 Hoot 6 Images 7 Please 9 Latin 11 Monastery 12 Stagnated 15 Raise 16 Offers 17 Eluded 20 Rests 21 Even

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 4 Switch 8 Related 9 Cruise 10 Isolation 11 Here 13 Stabs 14 Bemused16 Average 18 Oboes 19 Lead 21 Encounter 22 Outfit 23 Detract 24 Thymes
Down: 1 Sensitive 2 Early bird 3 Depth 5 Warn 6 Tribes 7 Heeled 9 Cores 11 Husbandry 12 Reverence 15 Agent 16 Almost 17 Earthy 20 Dover 21 Eire

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AUTOWEEKLY

The return of a classic

REVIEW: FORD FOCUS

By **Philip Shoulder**

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SINCE it was first launched in 1998, the Ford Focus has become a familiar sight on our roads, blending enough style, practicality and drivability, to ensure it has enjoyed class-leading popularity.

This new third-generation model is the first Focus to be built under the new 'One Ford' plan, making it the first global Focus.

However, engine and trim levels are market specific, and the main UK variants include: Edge, Zetec, Zetec S, Titanium Navigator and Titanium Navigator X, with the petrol engine lineup ranging from the 99 bhp and 123 bhp 1.0 litre Ecoboost, to the 148 bhp and 178 bhp 1.6 Ecoboost units. There are 1.6 and 2.0 diesels, too.

With 148 bhp on tap, this 1.6 Ecoboost engine is capable of decent performance, although it perhaps lacks the flexibility of a similarly powered diesel; requiring the driver to use ample revs to wring out the motor's available power.

On the other hand, when driven more gently, this engine is capable of returning pretty decent fuel consumption and emission figures (47.9mpg and 137g/km of CO2) while also being an effective cruiser.

Of course, previous Focus models were known for being great to drive and this new car is no exception, with sweet, agile handling, good body-control and grip levels, together with well-weighted and precise steering. Strong, progressive brakes and an accurate gear change complete the driver rewarding package.

The Focus's cabin isn't quite as commodious as a VW Golf's, but there's still ample leg and headroom for four occupants. Slightly disappointing is the 316 litre boot – considerably off class best – although unusually for a hatchback, the rear seats do fold completely flat.

Admittedly, rear three-quarter vision is rather restricted (par-for-the-course in most modern hatchbacks), but the driving position is first-class, due to spot-on alignment of seat, steering wheel and pedals, with generous amounts of adjustment available.

Air-conditioning is standard across the range, while Zetec trim provides DAB radio and Ford Navigation, Bluetooth and a heated windscreen.

Verdict:

The latest Focus builds on the strengths of its predecessors, while now offering considerably better safety and refinement; along with a higher overall quality of fit and finish. This 148bhp 1.6 Ecoboost model blends warm-hatch levels of performance with reasonable running costs.

• *The new Ford Focus*

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Focus range: urban 42.8-35.3 (6.6-8.0), extra urban 65.7-60.1 (4.3-4.7), combined 54.3-47.9 (5.2-5.9). Official C02 emissions 134-136g/km.
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Mazda3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 60.1 (4.7). Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) - 80.7 (3.5). Combined 48.7 (5.8) - 72.4 (3.9). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 135 - 104.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6(12.2 – 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 – 3.3), Combined 32.5 – 78.5 (8.7 – 3.6). CO_2 emissions 201 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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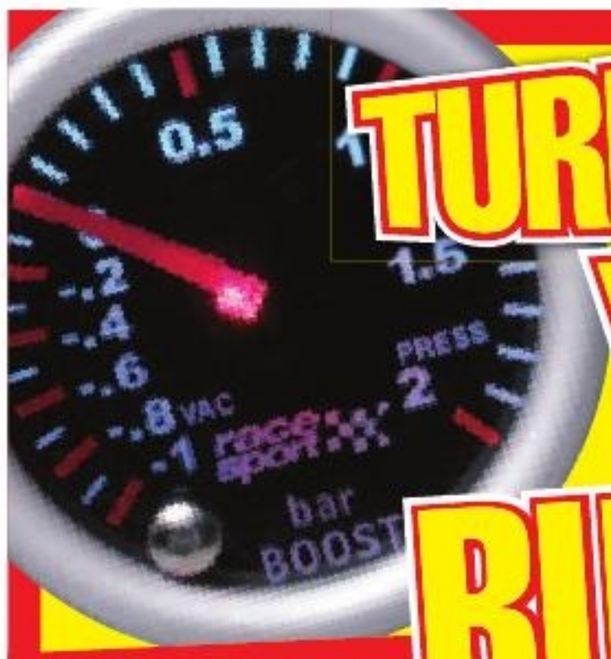

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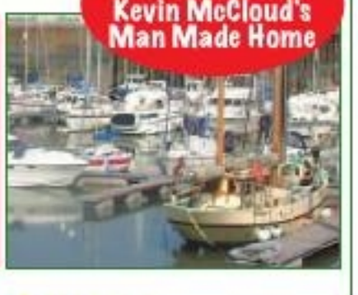

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COURAGEOUS U'S EARN CUP REPLAY

Battling stalemate at muddy Valley

CHRIS Wilder seemed to relish in the 'full-blooded cup-tie' that saw Oxford United force a replay with Championship strugglers Charlton on Tuesday night.

The U's stormed into a 2-0 half-time lead, with Johnny's Mullins' deflected effort and Scott Davies' powerful low drive setting Wilder's men on course for a famous FA Cup win.

However, second half efforts from Michael Morrison and Yann Kermorgant means the two sides will battle it out all over again at the Kassam Stadium on Tuesday for a place in the fourth round.

The problematic Valley pitch, unable to cope with the recent bad weather, has decimated Charlton's fixtures of late, and this tie was finally being played after twice being postponed.

By **James Booker**
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

And the muddy surface only added to the competitiveness of the occasion.

"They were tough conditions for everybody," said Wilder. "It was full-blooded cup-tie, and we've pushed a Championship team pretty close, so we can take a lot out of it.

"The players gave us everything. We changed the side around – three players came in [goalscorer Davies, as well as youngsters Josh Ruffels and Tyrone Marsh] and have done extremely well.

"The players fought really hard to put us in a great position, but you've got to credit the opposition for coming back strongly.

"They got their first goal at a good time, and it gave them a platform to go and push on for a second.

"It was good performances all round, and we can take a lot of heart from that.

"People might say 'that's our opportunity missed', but we have to go and show that we're still in the cup tie and we've got a fighting shout. We've given them a tough night, and hopefully in the replay we can do the same."

Wilder also reserved praise for another excellent showing on the road, and hopes the result can give his side momentum going into Saturday's trip to nearby Wycombe.

"Hopefully we'll take a fantastic following to Wycombe," he said. "Our away form has, yet again, been outstanding. We've come to a Championship side and can be proud of our performance.

"Both teams had a right go at it – two committed sides that wanted to get in the next round."

Charlton Athletic	2
Oxford United	2

• *Goalscorers Johnny Mullins and (inset) Scott Davies (Pictures by Steve Daniels)*

In-form Ajuwa hungry for more as Welsh prepare for Scots clash

LONDON Welsh winger Joe Ajuwa is hoping his prolific try scoring form will see him cement a regular place in the starting line-up.

Ajuwa went over twice as the Exiles beat Pontypridd 26-23 in the B&I Cup last Sunday, lifting Justin Burnell's men back up to second in Pool 2.

The 30-year-old has now scored 10 tries in only 10 appearances in all competitions this season.

He said: "A winger's job is to score tries and I'm doing that at the moment, so hopefully he'll (Burnell) give me the nod.

"But to be fair the other boys have been playing well.

"Nick Scott and Seb Stegmann are fantastic players and I'm just going to try and muscle my way in."

The Exiles face Pool 2 leaders London Scottish this weekend, knowing a bonus point win will lift them above the Surrey-based side.

A win is a must for Burnell's side who are currently level on points with third-placed Pontypridd who face bottom side Edinburgh Accies.

Jackson rescues point

KAYDEN Jackson came off the bench to score an injury time equaliser as Oxford City drew 1-1 with Colwyn Bay in the Skrill North last Saturday.

Mike Ford's men looked to be heading for their 10th defeat of the season but Jackson fired low past Chris Sanna in the Colwyn goal.

Rob Hopley bundled the ball over the line on 72 minutes to put eighth placed Colwyn ahead but City, who weathered a first half storm, came back to claim a point.

Ford's side are 18th in the Skrill North with 23 points and will hope this weekend's home game against Altrincham will beat the weather.

Oxford City Nomads had their Hellenic Premier Division match against Cheltenham Saracens at Marsh Lane postponed last Sunday and Ford will hope the pitch has improved for this weekend.

Meanwhile, new signing Juli Serrano made his debut as a second half substitute against Colwyn Bay.

The 22-year-old Spaniard has joined from Finnish side Seinajoen Jalkapallokerho.

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